

White schoolmates. Soon after completing her middle-school education, Ms. Laurant selflessly began working full time in an effort to ease her family's financial hardships.

In 1946, Ms. Laurant met her future husband, Norvell Laurant, in her hometown of Bonfouca. After marrying, the couple left Louisiana for Columbus, OH, where Mr. Laurant was stationed in the U.S. Army and Air Force. After receiving an honorable discharge from the military in 1948, the two moved back to Bonfouca. There, they built their home and raised seven children, to whom they stressed the importance of strong Christian values and a well-rounded education. Leading by example, Ms. Laurant attended adult evening classes at St. Tammany High School. During this time she also worked as a housekeeper to provide for her family. Using her past experiences, Ms. Laurant advocated for racial integration in schools throughout Salmen and Slidell, LA, to ensure that African-American students were treated fairly and received a quality education. Ms. Laurant still resides in Bofouca, now an incorporated part of Slidell, where after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, she rebuilt the home in which she raised all seven of her children.

As she approaches her 90th birthday, I would like to honor Ms. Laurant's life, her accomplishments, and her commitment to her community and advancing the rights of African Americans during a tumultuous time in our Nation's history. I wish her the happiest of birthdays.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 29, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1890. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1493. An act to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2908. An act to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the enrolled bills were signed on April 29, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed

the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2901. An act to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4901. An act to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5019. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 88. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary".

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4703(b) of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Act (20 U.S.C. 4703), the Majority Leader appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation: Ms. MARTHA MCSALLY of Arizona.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2017: Mr. Daniel M. Slane of Ohio.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2901. An act to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5019. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.J. Res. 88. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term "Fiduciary".

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on April 29, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1890. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal ju-

risdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5306. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Propanamide, 2-hydroxy-N, N-dimethyl-; Exemption from the Requirement of a 'Tolerance'" (FRL No. 9944-10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5307. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pesticide Tolerance Crop Grouping Program Amendment IV" (FRL No. 9944-87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5308. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mefenoxam; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9944-82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5309. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Carfentrazone-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9942-47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5310. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Abamectin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9945-29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5311. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010" (RIN0584-AE18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5312. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Revision of Exemption Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0046) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5313. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs

Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements for the Distribution and Control of Donated Foods—The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014" (RIN0584-AE29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5314. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-5315. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General David M. Rodriguez, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5316. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John W. Hesterman III, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5317. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral William E. Gortney, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5318. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5319. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on the Activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation for 2015"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5320. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finalization of Interim Final Rules (Subject to Any Intervening Amendments) Under Consumer Financial Protection Laws" (RIN3170-AA06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5321. A communication from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fair Lending Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5322. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5323. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5324. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Clarification of Test Procedures for Fluorescent Lamps Ballasts" ((RIN1904-AD58) (Docket No. EERE-2009-BT-TP-0016)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5325. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations and Standards Branch, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf - Blow-out Preventer Systems and Well Control" (RIN1014-AA11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5326. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Removal of I/M Program in Memphis and Revisions to the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan for Shelby County, Tennessee" (FRL No. 9945-91-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5327. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Temporary Exception for Certain Severe Wound Discharges From Certain Long-Term Care Hospitals Required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016; Modification of Limitations on Redesignation by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board" ((RIN0938-AS88) (CMS-1664-IFC)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5328. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Medicare Secondary Payer Commercial Reimbursement Center in Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5329. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5330. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Programs; Medicaid Managed Care, CHIP Delivered in Managed Care, and Revision Related to Third Party Liability" ((RIN0938-AS25) (CMS-2390-F)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5331. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-005); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5332. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-016); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5333. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-023); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5334. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-105); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5335. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2015, through January 31, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5336. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report certifying for fiscal year 2016 that no United Nations agency or United Nations affiliated agency grants any official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes and condones or seeks the legalization of pedophilia, or which includes as a subsidiary or member any such organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5337. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Millennium Challenge Corporation during fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5338. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Black Lung Benefits Act; Disclosure of Medical Information and Payment of Benefits" (RIN1240-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5339. A communication from the Director, Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Handling Retaliation Complaints Under Section 402 of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act" (RIN1218-AC58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5340. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a fiscal year 2017 estimate for the Free Clinic Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5341. A communication from the Chair, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines that were proposed by the Commission during the 2015-2016 amendment cycle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5342. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5343. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5344. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5345. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5346. A communication from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the report on activities of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5347. A communication from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Care for Certain Children of Vietnam Veterans and Certain Korea Veterans—Covered Birth Defects and Spina Bifida" (RIN2900-AP09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5348. A communication from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Corrections—VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Nomenclature Change for Position Title" (RIN2900-AP65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5349. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5350. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Lewis-Clark Valley Viticultural Area and Realignment of the Columbia Valley Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5351. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Accounting and Reporting of Business Combinations, Security Investments, Comprehensive Income, Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" (RIN2140-AB18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5352. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone

Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2016 Gulf of Alaska Pollock Seasonal Apportionments" (RIN0648-XE528) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5353. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XE532) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5354. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XE499) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5355. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustment for the Common Pool Fishery" (RIN0648-XE569) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5356. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries" (RIN0648-XE539) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5357. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Aggregated Large Coastal Shark and Hammerhead Shark Management Group Retention Limit Adjustment" (RIN0648-XE531) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5358. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XE556) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-161. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Delegates of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Congress to provide funding for the West Virginia National Guard to sustain and enhance its capabilities in its role in a regional catastrophe and to modernize the antiquated avionics of its fleet of C130s and other aircraft to meet global airspace requirements for 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 20

Whereas, In the event of a regional catastrophe, West Virginia's east-west highways, including I-68 and I-64 are links to the major exit corridors from the FEMA National Capital Region (NCR) westward and, assuming that a regional catastrophe will likely include Baltimore to the north of the NCR and Richmond to the south of the NCR, westward evacuation utilizing these highways is highly likely and is, in fact anticipated; and

Whereas, The routes through West Virginia will traverse rural areas that do not have infrastructure adequate for what could be a mass of evacuees in the worst-case scenario; experience in regional emergencies, such as Superstorm Sandy in 2012, illustrates some shortcomings in planning that is less focused on regions and more on states; and

Whereas, West Virginia is perfectly (and geographically) postured to support any emergency or disaster response to the NCR, including mass evacuation westward; and

Whereas, FEMA regions do not necessarily represent grouping of states likely to be involved in some scenarios; FEMA region III contains the NCR and West Virginia as its western-most edge and in a major catastrophe, Regions V, with Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, VII with Missouri, and IV with Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina are likely to be involved in some combinations; and

Whereas, The National Guard, through the use of Emergency Management Assistance Compacts, can operate across state lines to provide vital response capability in security, transportation, medical, housing, communications, command and control, and others based on its dual role in military preparedness and state civil support; and

Whereas, Military Force Structure assigned to the National Guard must be considered by Federal Military planners for the dual use they can encounter; National Guard Organizations require personnel, equipment, organization, training, leadership and funding to maintain federal military standards and to be prepared to respond to a domestic emergency or disaster; and

Whereas, Regional catastrophic planning is dependent on National Guard assets, capabilities and responsiveness; consequently, it is also critical that federal military planners assess the impact of their force structure changes on regional capability needs as well as those that are state specific; and

Whereas, The C-130 H3 "Hercules" aircraft assigned to the 130th Airlift Wing of the West Virginia National Guard at Yeager Airport in Charleston, West Virginia will eventually become obsolete without system modernization to the communication, navigation, and surveillance (CNS) components; National Air Traffic Control (ATC) agencies and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) are modernizing airspace faster than the U.S. Air Force is updating C-130 avionics capabilities; and

Whereas, Aircraft component acquisition becomes increasingly difficult as fewer C-130 H aircraft remain in the Air Force inventory and the unique components of the C-130, including its self contained navigational system (SCNS), face short term supply chain shortages that could be remedied with aircraft avionics modernization; and

Whereas, The contract to perform maintenance on aircraft flight computers is renewed annually and this perpetual reliance on short term contracts increases sustainment cost and challenges mission effectiveness and operational planning; and

Whereas, Reliance on short term contracts and antiquated avionics will increase Air Force expense in the long run as it translates to more expensive mission-essential